



**Testimony submitted to the Education Committee on S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut**

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Chantel and I am from Bridgeport, Connecticut. I'm asking you to **support S.B. 948**, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut.

Right now, our state's education funding system is racist and classist. We spend more on educating affluent white children than low-income children and children of color. Then we spend even more to police, prosecute, and incarcerate those who are failed by our education system. I'm asking you to help make Connecticut a more just and equitable place to live.

Education Justice Now is important to me because my child, family members and all children of black and brown complexion deserve to have equal funding. Our children are missing out on better resources, up-to-date, accurate books, and all the equal educational opportunities that are given to white children.

Knowing the state I have been living in all of my life, the state where I'm raising my child, and the state where my family members live, spends 640 MILLION MORE DOLLARS on the white students than they do on the Black and Brown students is mind-blowing. It is a constant slap to the faces our children. By underfunding our children, you're saying they're not good enough, they'll never amount to anything, and they're not better than their white counterparts. You only invest in something you believe will be valuable. Underfunding black and brown children is telling them at some point in their lives, they will have to have other state assistance, they will have to work a minimum wage job and sometimes more than one minimum wage job, the cycle of poverty will have to continue another generation.

**Please vote "Yes" on S.B. 948** and support its passage in the General Assembly so that our state's budget reflects the values of justice and equity in education.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership on this issue.

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